

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, October 7, 2014

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:03 p.m. Executive Session, Mrs. Winters made a motion to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under Rhode Island General Laws §42-46-5 (a) (1) Legal Services Contract, (a) (2) Litigation Update: Teachers ULP re: Speech Pathologists; Lamendola v. EG; RI Pension case (Various public employee unions v. state and municipal entities); H.Carr. Ms. Mark seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Those in attendance were Mr. David Green, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. Jack Sommer; Ms. Carolyn Mark; Mr. Clark Smith, and Mrs. Susan Records (arrived at 6:42 p.m.). Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Gail Wilcox, Director of Administration, and Mr. Brad Wilson, Director of Student Services were also present.

7:10 p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

Mr. Green called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and announced a vote was taken in executive session regarding legal services. The vote was 7-0 to approve the recommendation.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. Public Comments

Ellen Shanos, 50 Larkspur Road, thanked the Committee for supporting the visual and performing arts departments with the new coordinator positions. Ms. Shanos voiced her strong support for Megan Catelli noting, “She is a fabulous teacher.”

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. Special Meeting Minutes for September 11, 2014

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the minutes. Dr. Gifford and Mr. Smith abstained.

b. Regular and Executive Minutes for September 16, 2014

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the minutes.

V. Superintendent’s Report

October is National Principals’ Month. Dr. Mercurio thanked the building principals’ for their efforts. The district is working in concert with the R.I. Department of Health to provide information regarding Enterovirus D68. The district has been vigilant in sanitizing the schools. Dr. Mercurio discussed the threats made to Warwick, Cranston, and Johnston schools. No threats have been made in East Greenwich, but Dr. Mercurio reached out to the Chief of Police, SROs, and principals’ regarding school safety. The NECAP scores are still embargoed and RIDE is following up with the R.I. Association of Superintendents.

VI. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VII. Action Items

a. Appointments

1. 0.3 FTE Speech Pathologist-Patricia Garrahy, District-wide- One Year Only

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the appointment.

2. 0.6 FTE Paraprofessional, Annette Paull, Meadowbrook

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the appointment.

b. Parental Leave-Kelli O-Neill, Cole

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the parental leave.

c. Home School Request-Grade 11

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Ms. Mark, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the request.

d. Field Trip-April 2016-EGHS- Galapagos Islands

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the field trip. Ms. Munzert was present to discuss the trip.

e. Director of Administration Contract

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the contract.

f. Director of Technology/Systems Analyst Contract

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Ms. Mark, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the contract. Mr. Babson's start date is October 20, 2014.

VIII. Discussion

a. Update on 1:1 rollout at EGHS

Distribution was delayed one day due to concerns with the filtering software. Distribution went well and Dr. Mercurio thanked Mr. Jett and Mr. Mello for all of their efforts and support with implementation. Mr. Podraza, EGHS students, and EGHS teachers will attend an upcoming meeting to provide a snapshot of what's happening daily using Chromebooks. The bandwidth is very robust with only 10% of the capacity being used. Positive feedback has been received regarding Hapara, the in-class monitoring system. Another 1:1 professional development day has been scheduled for teachers on November 3rd. A significant number of students have participated in the Chromebook insurance program. Information regarding student data mining will be sent out on the next Superintendent's Field Memo. Ms. Mark asked for an update on the percentage of students who have completed the required Internet reading for 1:1. Mr. Green discussed his observations of 1:1 during his recent visit to EGHS.

b. Elementary Minutes update

Sample daily schedules were provided for all schools. Dr. Mercurio noted the extra twenty minutes built into the schedule are all non-instructional to meet the requirement of 330 instructional minutes. Ms. Mark asked for a breakdown of the minutes in regards to transition.

c. Mental Health Assessment

Ms. Mark and Mr. Wilson discussed the Mental Health Assessment that was drafted by the Mental Health Subcommittee. The district needs data on how things are going before moving forward with the recommendations. The district is part of a consortium that received a federal grant to use the program, Youth Mental Health First Aid. More details will follow. Ms. Mark thanked Nina Mackta and Dr. Mercurio for their assistance

IX. Sub Committee Report

a. Ad Hoc Committees

1. Study Start Times

The Ad Hoc Committee to Study Start Times has met a few times. The next meeting is scheduled for tomorrow evening. The group will share research on best practice across all grade levels.

2. Academic Calendar

This group met last week and is crafting a survey. Dr. Mercurio has a sample state calendar for the upcoming school year without the February break. This is not a formal mandate, only a recommendation.

3. All Day Kindergarten

The public forum to discuss All Day Kindergarten is scheduled for October 14th at 6:00 p.m. in the Cole library. Forums have also been scheduled for Meadowbrook and Frenchtown staff members. A walk-thru with Strategic Business Solutions (SBS) took place last Monday at Meadowbrook and Frenchtown with the building principals. SBS is examining the impact of all day kindergarten on

both buildings and will craft a report for the School Committee.

X. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY